

REMARKS

Receipt of the Office Action of December 20, 2007 is gratefully acknowledged.

Claims 9 - 16 have been examined and rejected under 35 USC 102(b) by Karas.

The Karas patent has been carefully studied and it is believed that the present invention defines over Karas. The rejection is therefore, respectfully traversed.

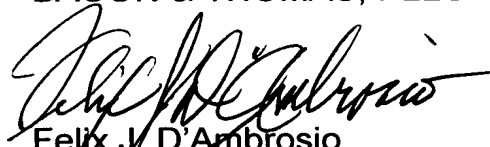
One distinction that is noted of the invention over Karas is the fact that the insert of the present invention has electronic circuitry situated therein. Karas has no such structural relationship disclosed. Claim 9 has been amended to recite that an electronic circuit is provided and that it is situated in the interior of the insert. In Karas the inserts are bolts or pins which certainly do not have an insert in which electronic circuitry is accommodated. This distinction alone is sufficient to define the present invention over Karas. In addition, claim 9 has been amended to include the subject matter of claims 10 and 11.

As amended, claim 9, and claims 12 - 16 which depend therefrom, are believed to patentably distinguish over Karas.

In view of the foregoing, reconsideration and re-examination are respectfully requested and claims 9 and 12 - 16 found allowable.

Date: March 20, 2008

Respectfully submitted,
BACON & THOMAS, PLLC



Felix J. D'Ambrosio
Attorney for Applicant

Registration Number 25,721

U.S. National Stage of PCT/EP2004/003680

Customer Number *23364*

BACON & THOMAS, PLLC

625 Slaters Lane, Fourth Floor

Alexandria, Virginia 22314

Telephone: (703) 683-0500

Facsimile: (703) 683-1080

S:\Producer\jfd\CLIENTS\Endress+Hauser Holding GmbH\TANN3002-EH0602\March 20 2008 Response.wpd